

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An ingestable composition for the photoprotection of the skin ~~which comprises~~ comprising a photoprotecting effective amount of i) at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof, and ii) at least one component selected from the group consisting of yeast, and/or carotenoid and or derivative derivatives thereof, included ~~into~~ in an ingestable carrier.

Claim 2 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of ~~lactic acid bacteria,~~ preferably Lactobacilli, Bifidobacteria ~~and or~~ Enterococci.

Claim 3 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to claim 1 or 2, ~~wherein in which~~ the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus casei* or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Bifidobacterium lactic*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus sp.* and mixtures or a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 3, wherein ~~in which~~ the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of CNCM I-1225, CNCM I-2116, CNCM I-2168 ~~and or~~ CNCM I-2170.

Claim 5 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 4, wherein ~~in which~~ the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is included ~~into~~ in the carrier in a live form selected from the group consisting of live, semi-active and deactivated or in desactivated form, preferably as a lyophilized powder attention.

Claim 6 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 5, wherein the carotenoid is selected from the group of a carotenoid carotenoids consisting of carotenoids with provitamin A activity and or without provitamin A activity, such as β -carotene, γ -carotene, α -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthine and luteine, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 6, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Debaryomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Saccharomyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida* and *Rhodotorula*, and mixtures or a mixture thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to claim 7 1, wherein the yeast is *S. cerevisiae*.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A composition according to one of claims 1 to 8, which is in the form of

i) — a nutritionally complete pet food comprising a photoprotecting effective amount of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof, and at least one component selected from the group consisting of yeast, carotenoid and derivatives thereof, included in an ingestable carrier in a powdered, dried or a wet, chilled or shelf stable form or,

ii) — in the form of a dietary adjunct or a supplement or a treat.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A method of preparing a therapeutic composition for skin disorders comprising the steps of: using Use of a photoprotecting effective amount of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof and at least one yeast and or carotenoid, for preparing an ingestable carrier for the protection of the skin against solar radiations and attenuating or preventing all related skin disorders.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The method use according to claim 10, wherein in which the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus casei* or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, or a mixture thereof Bifidobacterium psudocatenulatum, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus sp.* and mixtures or a mixture thereof.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The method use according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of CNCM I-1225, CNCM I-2116, CNCM I-2168, CNCM I-2170 and or ATCC 27536.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The method use according to one of claims claim 10 to 12, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Debaryomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*,

Saccharomyces, *Yarrowia*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida* and *Rhodotorula*, ~~or a mixture and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended) The method use according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 10 to 13, wherein the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is present in the carrier in an amount of from about 10^5 to 10^{12} cfu/ g of the carrier and, the yeast from about 10^5 to 10^{15} cfu/ g of the carrier.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The method use according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 10 to 13, wherein the carotenoid is present in the carrier in an amount of from $10^{-12}\%$ to 20% by weight.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The method use according to ~~any of claims claim~~ 10 to 15, wherein the ~~for the preparation of a composition~~ is intended for reducing the effects of photoageing in pets.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A method for improving the photoprotective function of the skin of pets, comprising which comprises the step steps of orally administering to ~~the a~~ pet a therapeutically-effective amount of a composition comprising ~~the combination of i)~~ at least one probiotic lactic acid bacteria or a culture supernatant thereof, and ~~ii)~~ at least one yeast, ~~and/or~~ carotenoid or derivative thereof, in an ingestible carrier.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacilli, Bifidobacteria and Enterococci in which the composition is according to claims 1 to 9.

Claim 19 (new) A method according to claim 17, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus casei* or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus sp.* and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (new) A method according to claim 17, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of CNCM I-1225, CNCM I-2116, CNCM I-2168 and CNCM I-2170.

Claim 21 (new) A method according to claim 17, wherein the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is included into the carrier in a form selected from the group consisting of: live, semi-active and desactivated.

Claim 22 (new) A method according to claim 17, wherein the carotenoid is selected from the group of carotenoids consisting of carotenoids with provitamin A activity and without provitamin A activity.

Claim 23 (new) A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Debaryomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Saccharomyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida* and *Rhodotorula*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 24 (new) A composition according to claim 1, in which the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is included in the carrier in a lyophilized powder form.

Claim 25 (new) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carotenoid is selected from the group consisting of β -carotene, γ -carotene, α -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthine, luteine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (new) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the pet food is in a form selected from the group consisting of powdered, dried, wet, chilled, and shelf stable form.

Claim 27 (new) The method of claim 10, wherein a photoprotecting effective amount of composition is used for the protection of the skin against solar radiations.

Claim 28 (new) A composition in a form selected from the group consisting of a dietary adjunct, a supplement, and a treat comprising an ingestible composition for the photoprotection of the skin comprising a photoprotecting effective amount of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof, and at least one component selected from the group consisting of yeast, carotenoid and derivatives thereof, included into an ingestible carrier.

Claim 29 (new) A method for protecting skin, which comprises the step of orally administering a composition comprising a component selected from the group consisting of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacteria or a culture supernatant thereof, and at least one yeast, carotenoid, and derivatives thereof, in an ingestible carrier.

REMARKS

Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-18 have been amended and newly-submitted Claims 19-29 have been added. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new subject matter. Moreover, Applicants note for the record that the Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in proper U.S. format and not to avoid prior art. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to disclaim any subject matter in view of the Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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